

Claims:

1. An implantable medical device, comprising :
a sealed housing defining a chamber containing circuitry;
the housing having an exterior defining a recess;
5 a header received in the recess;
the header having a body defining a plurality of lead bores, and including an
electrical contact within each bore, each contact connected to the circuitry in the housing;
and
the housing recess encompassing a major portion of the header.
- 10 2. The device of claim 1 wherein the housing is a flat body having a peripheral
edge including a straight edge portion, and wherein the recess is defined at an
intermediate portion of the straight edge portion.
3. The device of claim 1 wherein the housing is a flat body having a thickness,
and wherein the recess is defined through the entire thickness of the housing.
- 15 4. The device of claim 1 wherein the header has an exposed surface flush with
an exposed surface of the housing, and wherein the entire exposed surface of the header
comprises surface portions each having a shape characteristic selected from the group of
characteristics including flat surfaces and cylindrical surfaces, such that the header does
not protrude from the housing.
- 20 5. The device of claim 1 wherein the recess has recess surfaces abutting the
header in at least three orthogonal directions.
6. The device of claim 1 wherein the medical device comprises a cardiac
rhythm management device.
7. The device of claim 1 wherein the recess includes at least a pair of opposed
25 surfaces between which the header is received.

8. The device of claim 7 wherein the opposed surfaces are parallel to each other.

9. The device of claim 1 wherein the recess has a plurality of recess surfaces abutting the header, each recess surface having at least a portion angularly offset from another of the surfaces, and wherein at least a plurality of the surfaces include a
5 conductive feed-through extending from the housing chamber to the header.

10. The device of claim 1 wherein the housing is a flat body having a peripheral edge including a corner portion having a selected radius of curvature less than that of at least another portion of the peripheral edge, and wherein the recess is positioned away
10 from the corner portion.

11. The device of claim 1 wherein the housing is a flat body having a peripheral edge including several edge segment portions having different degrees of curvature, and wherein the recess is defined on an edge having the lowest degree of curvature.

12. The device of claim 1 wherein the housing is a flat body having opposed
15 major faces, and wherein the header has opposed faces flush with the housing major faces, and wherein the header has a periphery separating the opposed major faces, and wherein more than half of the periphery abuts the housing recess.

13. The device of claim 1 wherein the housing is a flat body having opposed major faces, and wherein the header has opposed faces flush with the housing major
20 faces, and wherein the header has a periphery separating the opposed major faces, and all but a single surface portion of the header periphery abuts the housing recess.

14. An implantable cardiac rhythm management device, comprising:
a sealed housing defining a chamber containing rhythm management circuitry;
the housing being a flat body with opposed major faces, and having a periphery
25 defining a recess;

a header received in the recess;

the header having a body defining a plurality of lead bores, and including an electrical contact within each bore, each contact connected to the circuitry in the housing; and

5 the housing recess having recess surfaces abutting the header in at least three orthogonal directions.

15. The device of claim 14 wherein the recess includes at least a pair of opposed surfaces between which the header is received.

10 16. The device of claim 15 wherein the opposed surfaces are parallel to each other.

17. The device of claim 14 wherein the peripheral edge includes a straight edge portion, and wherein the recess is defined at an intermediate portion of the straight edge portion.

15 18. An implantable medical device, comprising :
a sealed housing defining a chamber containing rhythm management circuitry;
the housing being a flat body with opposed major faces, and having a periphery defining a recess;

a header received in the recess;

20 the header having a body defining a plurality of lead bores, and including an electrical contact within each bore, each contact connected to the circuitry in the housing; and

the periphery edge including several edge segment portions having different degrees of curvature, and wherein the recess is defined on an edge segment having the lowest degree of curvature.

19. The device of claim 18 wherein the housing recess has recess surfaces abutting the header in at least three orthogonal directions.

20. The device of claim 18 wherein the housing periphery includes a corner portion having a selected radius of curvature less than that of at least another portion of the peripheral edge, and wherein the recess is positioned away from the corner portion.

21. The device of claim 18 wherein the housing is a flat body having opposed major faces, and wherein the header has opposed faces flush with the housing major faces, and wherein the has a periphery separating the opposed major faces, and wherein more than half of the periphery abuts the housing recess.

22. The device of claim 18 wherein the medical device comprises a cardiac rhythm management device.